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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/707,449	12/15/2003	Steven H. Voldman	BU9-99-163 US2	1448
29371	7590	09/16/2005		
CANTOR COLBURN LLP 55 GRIFFIN ROAD SOUTH BLOOMFIELD, CT 06002			EXAMINER NGUYEN, DILINH P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2814	
DATE MAILED: 09/16/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/707,449

Applicant(s)

VOLDMAN ET AL.

Examiner

DiLinh Nguyen

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 July 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

This application contains claims 7-12 drawn to an invention nonelected with traverse. A complete reply to the final rejection must include cancellation of nonelected claims or other appropriate action (37 CFR 1.144) See MPEP § 821.01.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nairn (U.S. Pat. 6011433) and Liu et al. (U.S. Pat. 6191025) in view of Greenwood et al. (U.S. Pat. 4006405).

- Regarding claim 1, Nairn discloses a method of fabricating a circuit element comprising:

creating a redundant circuit element C_a ;

creating one or more trim circuit elements C_{T1} ; C_{T2} ; C_{TN} ;

creating one or more links S coupling the redundant circuit elements to the trim circuit elements;

selectively activating one or more of the links to achieve a desired capacitance (cover fig., column 5, lines 10 et seq.).

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- Regarding claim 4, Nairn discloses a method of fabricating a circuit element comprising:
creating a redundant plate Ca;
creating one or more trim plates C_{T1} ; C_{T2} ; C_{TN} ;
creating one or more links S coupling the redundant plates to the trim plates;
creating a common plate capacitively coupled to the redundant plates and the trim plates; and
selectively activating one or more of the links S to achieve a desired capacitance (cover fig., column 5, lines 10 et seq).

Nairn does not specifically disclose that the redundant circuit element and the trim circuit element formed within an integrated circuit substrate by damascene processing and the second end of links connected to the trim circuit element.

However, Liu et al. disclose a conductor in an integrated circuit comprising: a first conductor metal 22 formed within an integrated circuit substrate 10 by damascene processing;

a second conductor metal 30 formed within the integrated circuit substrate 10 by damascene processing (fig. 8A, column 3, lines 26-30 and column 4, lines 45-56) for the purpose of preventing diffusion or oxidation of the barrier metal or conductor metal (abstract).

Greenwood et al. disclose a circuit element (Fig. 6) comprising: a link 39 having a first end and a second end, the first end connected to element $C\phi$ and the second end

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connected to another element C_s (column 9, lines 40-46) to provide the phase shift control (column 9, lines 44-45).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the process step of Nairn by forming the redundant circuit element, trim circuit element within an integrated circuit substrate by damascene processing and the second end of links connected to the trim circuit element, as taught by Liu et al. and Greenwood et al., in order to prevent diffusion or oxidation of the barrier metal or conductor metal and provide the phase shift control.

- Regarding claims 2 and 5, Nairn discloses that the links S are fusible links and the activating comprises blowing of the fusible links (column 1, lines 25-27).
- Regarding claims 3 and 6, Nairn discloses that the activating comprises fusing of the antifuse (cover fig., column 1, lines 25-27).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

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TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DiLinh Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1712. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM - 6:00PM (M-F).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wael Fahmy can be reached on (571) 272-1705. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

DLN


HOAI PHAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER